

CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO'S MEN'S AND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAMS

HON. HEATHER WILSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2005

Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the University of New Mexico Men's and Women's Basketball Teams on winning the Men's and Women's 2005 Mountain West Conference (MWC) Tournaments. From the Pit in Albuquerque to the Pepsi Center in Denver, these Lobo student-athletes have proudly represented the University of New Mexico.

The Lobo Men's 60–56 victory against Utah in the Mountain West Conference tournament garnered them the Mountain West Conference Championship. Equally impressive, the UNM Women's Basketball team beat Utah 47–37 for its third straight Mountain West Conference tournament victory.

Led by Head Coach Ritchie McKay, the Men's Basketball team secured an NCAA Tournament bid, the first since 1999. With a Conference Championship under their belt, this marks the 11th time the Lobo Men's team secured an NCAA tournament spot. The UNM Men are on a nine game winning streak as they look toward more "W's" in the NCAA tournament.

Now a perfect 3–0 in Conference title games, the Lobo Women, under the tutelage of Head Coach Don Flanagan, secured a bid to the NCAA Tournament. The Women's basketball team has dominated the conference for the past three years and has garnered three consecutive Conference Championships. The Lady Lobos have now won 9 straight Conference Championship games as they prepare for the NCAA tournament.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to commend both the UNM Men's and Women's Basketball Teams, Head Coaches Ritchie McKay and Don Flanagan, the University of New Mexico and all the dedicated Lobo fans for this successful season. I am eagerly anticipating the teams' first round games in the NCAA tournament as they proudly represent the University of New Mexico on the national stage. Go Lobos!

TRIBUTE TO ARKANSAS' 39TH INFANTRY BRIGADE

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2005

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise today on behalf of Congress to thank Arkansas' 39th Infantry Brigade for their service in Iraq and to welcome them home.

A Over the last year, the men and women of the 39th have worked to make a positive difference in the lives of the Iraqi people. They have faced their duties bravely, performed honorably and made a difference in the development of an emerging country.

Many years ago, the 39th chose to be represented by a Bowie knife laid over a diamond on their patch. The knife serves both as a tribute to The Bowie State and as a symbol of

their aggressive spirit, while the diamond symbolizes the only diamond field in North America located in Arkansas.

There is no doubt the 39th has lived up to the badge it proudly bares. Forceful and strong is why Iraq is better today than it was in April of 2004 when our brave men and women first pulled into Camp Taji. Forceful and strong is how they did their job in the most hostile environment, every day, for a year. Forceful and strong is why their families can wrap their arms around them now and welcome them home.

The efforts of the 39th have resulted in re-constructed Iraqi schools, hospitals, irrigation and sewage systems, and new recreational projects for children. The footprint they left in the Iraqi sand is far deeper than their boot size; and the sacrifice made by too many not coming home will never be forgotten.

We must take a moment, as we celebrate the return of our loved ones, to think of those less fortunate. Those who gave their lives defending strangers to ensure peace have made the noblest of sacrifices. They will be missed by their families and friends and honored by their country. We pray every day for those who loved them and thank them all for what they've left us with.

On behalf of the Congress, I thank all the members of the 39th Infantry Brigade for the immeasurable contributions they have made to peace, democracy and the Iraqi people. Their bravery and courage stand as a shining example of American ability and our debt to them can never fully be repaid.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF SAN ANTONIO CITY COUNCILMAN JULIAN CASTRO

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize San Antonio City Councilman Julian Castro for his distinguished career in public service, and his deep commitment to the people of San Antonio.

Julian Castro and his twin brother Joaquin were born on September 16, 1974, and grew up on San Antonio's west side. For all but one year of his education, Julian attended San Antonio public schools. Upon his graduation from high school, he moved to the San Francisco Bay Area, where he attended Stanford University. He graduated with a double major in Political Science and Communication in 1996, graduating with honors and distinction.

After college, Julian returned home to San Antonio, and took a position as a permanent substitute teacher at his alma mater, Jefferson High School. He also began his career in public service by working with the City's Special Projects Office on housing and economic development issues.

Julian ran for City Council in 2000, and won a seat representing District 7. He ran on a platform of economic development and revitalization for the city, and committed himself to these projects once in office. He worked to improve the community by cleaning up blighted neighborhoods, and was a leading voice for government ethics reform and public safety.

Julian Castro was 26 at the time of his election to the City Council, making him the

youngest elected city councilman in San Antonio history. He is just beginning on a promising career, and I know that he will be a major force for good in Texas politics for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have the chance to thank him here for the work he has done thus far, and to wish him well as he continues to serve the people of San Antonio.

A TRIBUTE TO ROSA WITSELL

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Rosa Witsell who has dedicated her career to her community and enriching the lives of our children.

Rosa grew up in Charleston, South Carolina and is the youngest of four children. She was nurtured in a home environment where there was a strong belief and faith in God. At age 10 she joined the Tabernacle Baptist Church and became a Sunday School Teacher and Secretary, and a member of the Junior Usher Board.

After earning her Bachelor's of Science from Johnson C. Smith University, Rosa moved to Brooklyn, New York where she continued her spiritual growth by joining the Brown Memorial Baptist Church under the Pastorate of the late Dr. Rev. Samuel Austin. She remains active in Brown's Ministries under her current Pastor, Rev. Clinton M. Miller, where she is a member of the Senior Missionary Society, Willing Worker's Club, and the 40/60 Friendship Club.

Rosa began her career path with the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation as a Recreation Director. She spent 12 years nurturing the young minds of 3 and 4 year olds in a distinguished pre-school program and broadening the horizon of 6 and 12 year olds in summer day camp. Rosa was later promoted to Assistant Supervisor of Recreation where she served the Harlem Community and later the East New York Community. She also served as her agency's liaison to Community Board Five, representing the agency at Community Board meetings, Youth Committee meetings, and providing invaluable support and assistance to the Board's staff.

After more than 20 years, Rosa retired from the Department of Parks, but remained in the East New York Community as Center Director of the Starrett-at-Spring Creek Teen Center. In addition to educational and cultural trips, Rosa implemented an annual Mother/Daughter Dinner, Double Dutch and Talent Show competitions, dance classes, and workshops dealing with job skills, AIDS awareness, and proper make-up. After 4 years as Center Director, Rosa resigned and joined the United States Postal Service where she is currently employed as a letter carrier. She enjoys the continued interaction with college students, young families, and seniors. Rosa's customers frequently thank her for her smile and excellent service. In fact, because her customers took the time to send letters of accommodation to the Postmaster, the Postal Service recognized her for outstanding customer service.

Rosa is a former Board member of Brooklyn Neighborhood Improvement Association, and a former Cadet Girl Scout Leader. She is a